

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 150

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Pastor Jerry Jerkins on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm over their years of industry to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated public servant is Pastor Jerry Jerkins, who led the congregation of Saint John Church in Clarksville for forty years; his leadership is credited with establishing the congregation as a cornerstone of the community and the State; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jerkins, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors, has taken a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Jerkins' vision and compassion has been the thrust to catapult Saint John Church to be a beacon of light for 21st century ministry; through his meticulous leadership and administration, Saint John procured eleven acres of land and erected a \$1.2 million dollar facility on what is now the city's prime real estate vicinity; and

WHEREAS, the son of George and Cora Lee Jerkins, Jerry Jerkins was born in Loxley, Alabama, and reared in Pensacola, Florida; and

WHEREAS, educated at Booker T. Washington High School, Washington Jr. College, and the Washington Vocation School of Pensacola, Pastor Jerkins also obtained certificates from Moody Bible Institute and Philadelphia College of the Bible; he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Austin Peay State University, and he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Evangelism from the North Tennessee Bible Institute; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Jerkins confessed his faith in Jesus Christ at the age of twelve; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, while serving in the U.S. Army, he was called to the gospel ministry at Ebenezer Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was ordained in 1964 by Pastor Nathaniel Smith; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Jerkins began his pastorate at Haynes Chapel Baptist in Dotsonville, and was subsequently called to serve the Saint John congregation in 1967; and

WHEREAS, from early on at Saint John, Pastor Jerkins focused on progressive work and continues to be engaged in the civic, social, economic, and religious concerns that affect the people he pastors; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jerkins has held leadership positions in many notable organizations; he has served as President/Secretary-Treasurer of the Clarksville Ministerial Alliance, PTA president, Red Cross Transportation Chair, County-City Jail Chaplain, President of the Tennessee Baptist State Convention (17-year administration), and President of the NAACP (12-year administration) as well as serving on various NAACP committees; and

WHEREAS, serving on a variety of boards, councils, and committees, Pastor Jerkins lent his talents to the Ft. Campbell Equal Opportunity Council, Bishop College Church Relation Development Board, Vanderbilt Black Study Committee, APSU Citizens Advisory Board, Tennessee Human Services Board, the Salvation Army, and the National Baptist Convention Chaplains Commission; he also served as the Associate Dean of the National Baptist Convention Congress; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jerkins currently is Director of the Progressive Citizens Advocates which led the fight to rename two major streets in Clarksville to honor the late Wilma Rudolph and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; he is the appointed Title VI Commissioner for Tennessee, leading the effort to ensure funds have been appropriately distributed and managed in accordance to Federal standards across state municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Jerkins established a community initiative program that addresses concerns related to HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Pastor Jerkins has received numerous awards recognizing his work and successful leadership including, Colonel Aide de'Camp given by Governor Winfield Dunn, Outstanding Service to Tennessee given by Governor Ray Blanton, Tennessee Chaplain of the Day, United Way Outstanding Citizen of the Year, American Baptist

College Award, Montgomery County Outstanding Service given by Judge Beech, and the Army Chaplain Corp (Germany); and

WHEREAS, he was listed by the *Leaf Chronicle* newspaper as one of Clarksville's most influential citizens of the millennium; and

WHEREAS, professional accomplishments aside, Pastor Jerkins is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Naomi; together they are the proud parents of two sons, Jeffery and Jerald Marc-Anthony, and identical twin daughters, Jennifer and Jacqueline; and

WHEREAS, the Jerkins' also enjoy the company of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jerkins exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a public servant, Pastor Jerkins has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Pastor Jerry Jerkins our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, commend him for his many years of honorable service and spiritual inspiration to his community, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.